

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:

a base;

an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of said base; and

at least two retention members that are bent to form an angle with and extend from said base into the inflator opening, said retention members being approximately perpendicular to said base,

wherein said retention members are formed integral with said base, and

wherein said retention members are curled in shape to form a surface defining cavity extending perpendicular to said base.

2. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1, wherein said inflator opening is

provided between said retention members.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1, wherein said retention members each include an insertion point and a lip, said insertion point extending a greater distance from said base than said lip.

5. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1, wherein each of said retention members further includes a retention cavity formed therein.

6. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 5, wherein each of said retention members includes a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

7. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 6, wherein said cavity extending from said base is at least partially located between said first and second engagement surfaces.

8. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1, wherein said surface includes a first leg and a second leg; and
wherein said second leg is angled relative to said first leg.

9. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 8, wherein each of said retention members includes a retention cavity formed therein; and

wherein said first leg defines a first engagement surface within said retention cavity and said second leg defines a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

10.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:
providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;
defining an inflator opening in the said base, the said inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the said base;
defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;
stamping the said metal sheet to remove portions of the said metal sheet, including portions defined by the said inflator opening;
bending said retention members to form an angle between the said retention members and the said base, such that the said retention members are formed integral with the said base; and
wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base and curling said retention members to form a surface defining a cavity extending perpendicular to said metal sheet.

31. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in ~~the said base~~, ~~the said~~ inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of ~~the said~~ base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;

stamping ~~the said~~ metal sheet to remove portions of ~~the said~~ metal sheet, including portions defined by ~~the said~~ inflator opening;

bending said retention members to form an angle between ~~the said~~ retention members and ~~the said~~ base, such that ~~the said~~ retention members are formed integral with ~~the said~~ base; and

wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of curling said retention members to form shaped retention members.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said shaped retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base after said step of curling said retention members.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in ~~the~~ said base, ~~the~~ said inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of ~~the~~ said base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening or that extend outwardly from ~~the~~ said base;

stamping ~~the~~ said metal sheet to remove portions of ~~the~~ said metal sheet, including portions defined by ~~the~~ said inflator opening;

curling ~~the~~ said retention members to include a curved interface at a portion of ~~the~~ said retention members that contact ~~the~~ said base; and

bending ~~the~~ said retention members to form an angle between ~~the~~ said retention members and ~~the~~ said base, such that ~~the~~ said retention members are formed integral with ~~the~~ said base.